



Artist Dick Tuinder immortalizes San Nicolas

Returning to Aruba after one year from his first exposition on the island, noted Dutch artist Dick Tuinder spent his three weeks in Aruba's Sunrise City, San Nicolas as the guest of Glenda Heyliger, President and curator of the SINFA gallery. For Dick, it was a revelation, and as he befriended his neighbors, he became utterly charmed by the character and community that is San Nicolas.

During his opening at the SINFA Gallery on Friday, July 7, he revealed not only a camaraderie with the local denizens, but also sensitivity to their everyday joys and sorrows. His mammoth mural that was unveiled by his new friend Nancy and her children, a curious neighbor that became a friend, is the results of weeks of work, and shows an acute insight into the diverse elements that make up an important part of this historic but forgotten city.

The show that will be on display until August 7 is a fine example of social commentary as art, and a tribute to the heart of the people of San Nicolas. During the opening, four members of the Young Poets Society of Aruba, Wilfred, Meral, Christie and Oscar, also performed, and a large part of the gallery walls demonstrated their visual creativity. Apropos of the expositions theme, "Waltaka," which purportedly means "graffiti" on Aruba, though no one is certain, guests that attended the opening were handed pots of paint and invited to add their own artistry to the walls of the gallery.

The evening ended with a performance by Dick's co-host Patrick Priest, a poet, and dramatist of San Nicolas, joined by Glenda and their friend Michael, in demonstrating a humorous slice of San Nicolas life.

This year's exhibition by Dick Tuinder is radically different than last year, but that is because Dick is continually influenced by his observations of social situations and the nuances of life and people. He has depicted his impressions of Aruba's original center of commerce and government in a most intriguing and provocative way, and it is worth the trip to San Nicolas to observe and study. Glenda stated that the SINFA gallery will be open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and they will attempt to arrange for the work to be on display six days a week. For more details contact Glenda at telephone #741-2096 or 584-3501. It is the hope of the gallery, and Dick Tuinder to see his piece on permanent display somewhere in San Nicolas as a reminder of his visit, and his admiration for the city and its inhabitants.